

San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant Proposal Disadvantaged Community Assistance

Attachment 12 consists of the following items:

- ✓ **Funding Match Waiver.** This *San Diego IRWM Implementation Grant Proposal* is requesting a funding match waiver for two proposed projects: the Rural Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Partnership Project and the Chollas Creek Integration Project.
- ✓ **Documentation of Presence and Needs of DACs.** Local DACs are defined and mapped using U.S. Census 2000 data. Critical water supply and water quality needs identified by local DAC representatives are summarized.
- ✓ **Description of Proposed Projects and Targeted Benefits to DACs.** The targeted benefits to local DACs from the proposed projects are described.
- ✓ **Documentation of DAC Representation and Participation.** The specific actions undertaken by the RWMG to engage DAC representatives from both urban and rural areas of the San Diego region are described. DAC representatives participate in both the San Diego IRWM program and in development and submittal of the proposed projects contained herein.
- ✓ **Letters of Support.** Letters of support from local DAC representatives for the proposed projects are included in Appendix 12-1.

This attachment documents information regarding the *Rural DAC Partnership Project* and the *Chollas Creek Integration Project*, both which address critical water supply and water quality needs in DACs. This attachment addresses the funding match waiver, documents the presence and needs of DACs, describes the proposed projects and targeted benefits to DACs, and documents DAC representation and participation in the San Diego IRWM program.

Funding Match Waiver

Two projects in this *San Diego IRWM Implementation Grant Proposal* are requesting a funding match waiver for activities directly benefiting DACs:

- The *Rural DAC Partnership Project*, submitted by the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), is applying for a funding match waiver. RCAC will provide \$30,000 in funding match (6%) through federal funding programs, including the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Indian Health Services, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region 9).
- The *Chollas Creek Integration Project*, submitted by the Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation, is applying for a funding match waiver. The Jacobs Center is providing \$94,500 in funding match (10%) through private funding from the Jacobs Family Foundation and a federal grant from the U.S. National Park Service.

One project in this grant proposal benefits local DACs, but has provided its full 25% funding match:

- The *San Diego Regional Water Quality Assessment and Outreach Project*, submitted by San Diego Coastkeeper, provides water quality benefits to urban DACs. San Diego Coastkeeper is providing \$167,000 in funding match (25%) through foundations, corporate sponsors local government entities, and individual donors.

Presence and Needs of the DAC

A DAC is identified as a community with an average median household income (MHI) of less than 80 percent of the Statewide MHI. The California MHI for year 2000 was \$47,500.¹ The County MHI for year 2000 was \$47,100, which is comparable to the Statewide MHI. Within the San Diego IRWM region, several communities and rural areas had an average MHI less than 80 percent of the Statewide value at approximately \$38,000. The IRWM Plan used various geographical designations, including cities, County of San Diego community planning areas, and City of San Diego community planning areas. However, the use of larger planning areas can at times cause smaller portions of the planning area that are economically disadvantaged to be overlooked. The RWMG recently analyzed MHI values on a census tract basis to identify smaller DACs for outreach. Figure 12-1 illustrates the disadvantaged census tracts within the Region; Figure 12-2 focuses on the disadvantaged census tracts within the center city areas.

Consistent with the recommendations of our *Public Outreach and Disadvantaged & Environmental Justice Community Involvement Plan*, actions are underway to identify specific locations of DACs throughout the Region. In addition to identifying communities meeting the State's MHI definition of disadvantaged, this comprehensive analysis will also consider areas that are recognized as economically disadvantaged by the Region's planning agencies, but do not meet the State's MHI definition. The RWMG is working closely with local DAC advocates to determine the most appropriate way to define DACs for the Region.

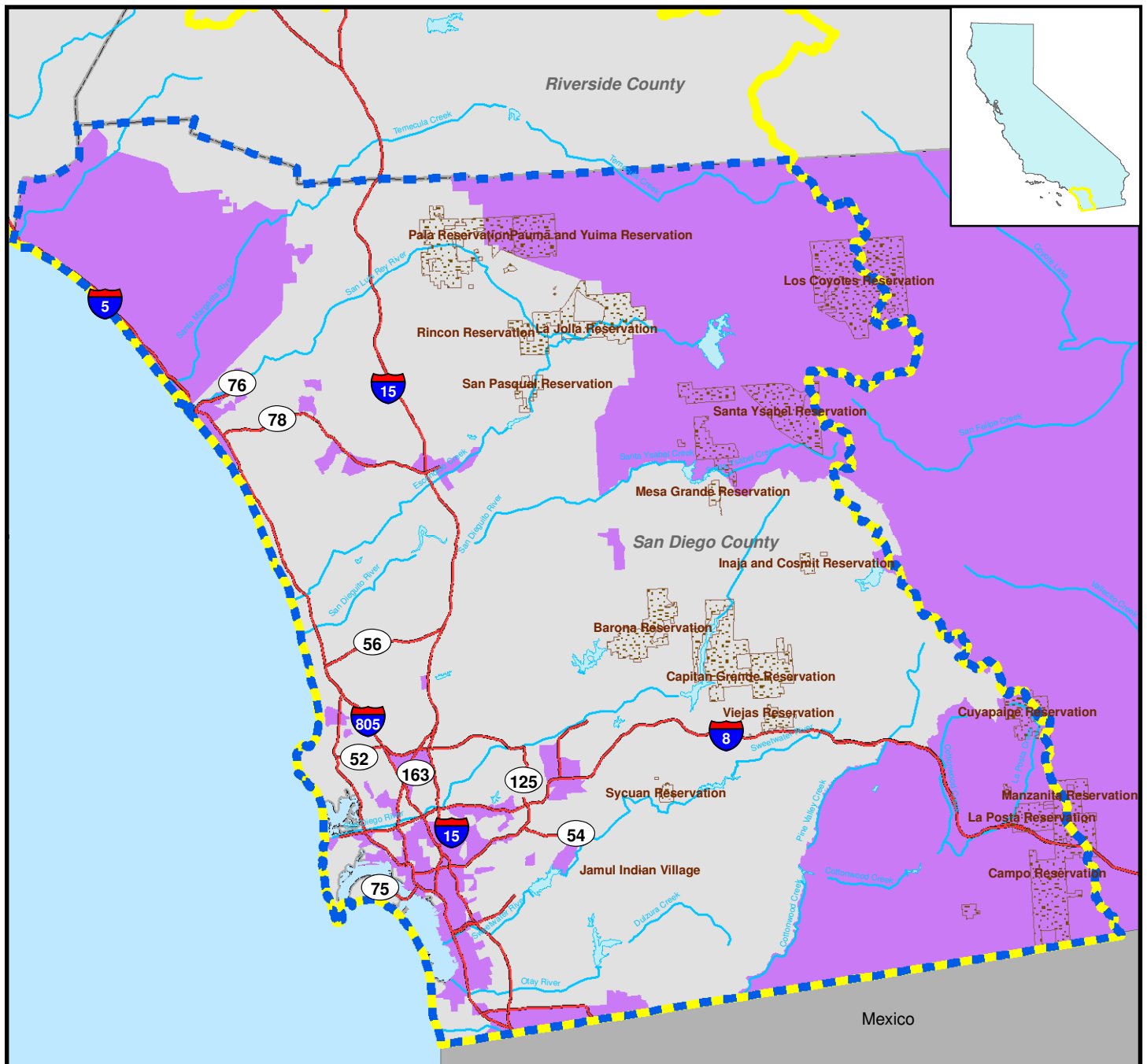
Watersheds tributary to San Diego Bay include several underserved communities including the communities of Barrio Logan, Harbor, Southeast San Diego, and Centre City. Preliminary needs assessment for the San Diego Bay watersheds identified the following key issues: toxic air emissions from plating industries; polluted waterways from sewage spills; and pollution resulting from the shipbuilding and boating industry. Recently, the RWMG worked directly with numerous DAC representatives (including San Diego Coastkeeper, Environmental Health Coalition, RCAC, and California Rural Water Association) to identify DAC issues and needs within the San Diego IRWM region. Identified DAC issues include:

- Effective management of small water systems permitted by the County Department of Environmental Health. Operations and maintenance are difficult. Small water systems need funding for improvements.
- Groundwater contamination in the San Dieguito and San Diego basins.
- Water conservation education to DACs in both urban areas (Pueblo/Otay watersheds) and rural (eastern San Diego County) areas. Outreach techniques are different. Urban DACs need to hear messaging from their peers (not the agencies).
- Implementation of the Chollas Creek TMDL (metals, bacteria).
- Flooding at creek constrictions in EJ communities.
- Support for implementation of Low Impact Development (LID) techniques to reduce storm water runoff and subsequent flooding.
- Leaking septic systems in eastern/rural San Diego County.
- How to pay for conversion of septic systems to advanced water treatment.
- Lack of recreational access for DAC/EJ communities. Can LID retrofits in parks provide the venue for implementing access improvements?
- Impacts of Bay water quality contamination on subsistence fishing populations.
- Plastic/trash reduction in local creeks and watersheds.

Subsequent work with these organizations led to the identification of the following two proposed projects that directly address critical DAC needs.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. 2000 Census: Summary File 1 and Summary File 3. American FactFinder Website: http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en.

Figure 12-1: Disadvantaged Communities



Legend

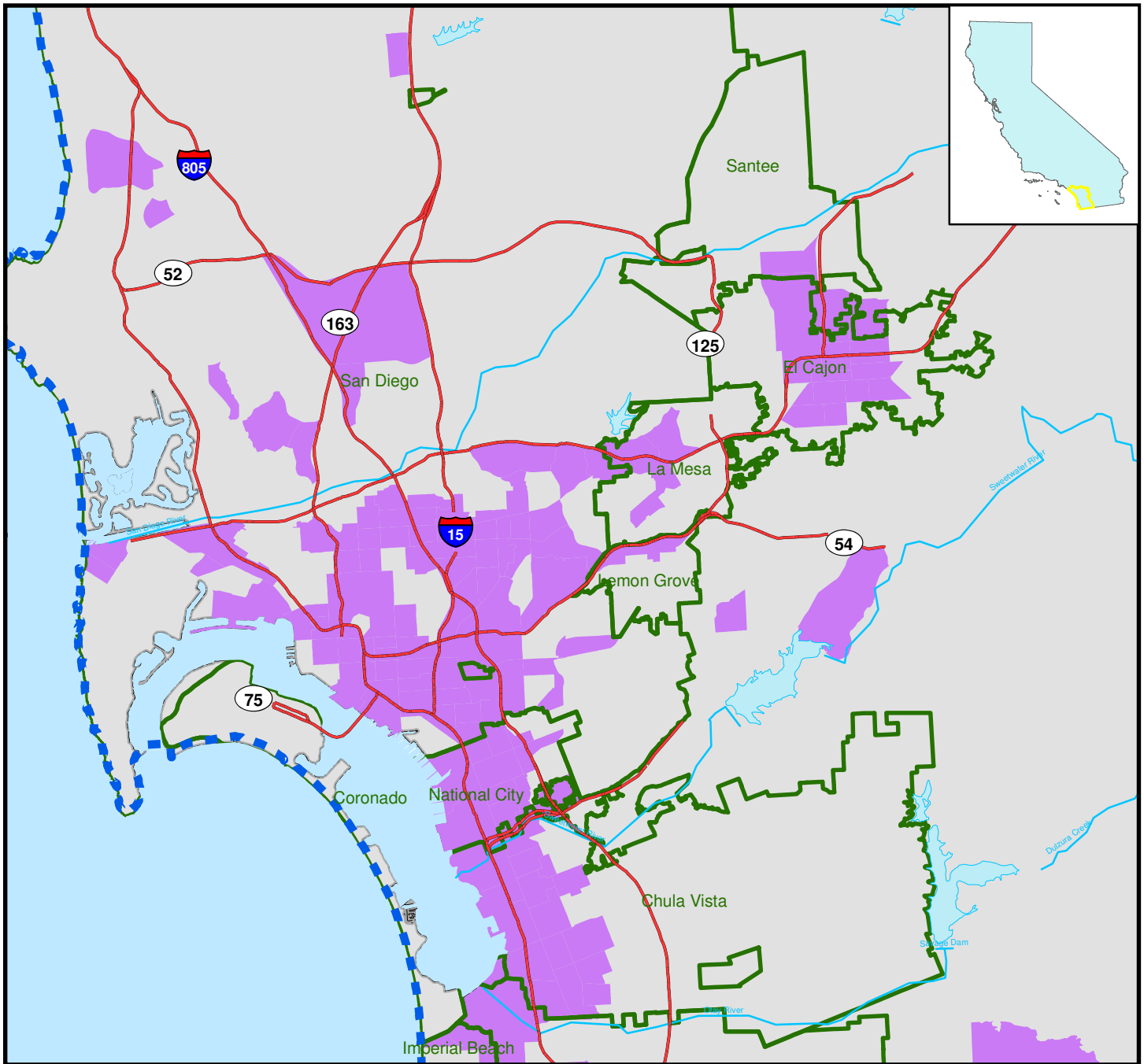
- Median Household Income <\$37,520
- Tribal Lands
- San Diego IRWM Region
- Funding Area Boundary
- Ocean
- Waterbody
- River
- Freeway
- Mexico
- County



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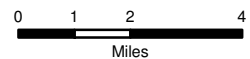
RMC

Figure 12-2: Disadvantaged Communities City Center



Legend

- Median Household Income <\$37,520
- Cities
- San Diego IRWM Region
- Ocean
- Waterbody
- River
- Freeway
- County



Rural DAC Partnership Project

Drinking water systems that serve DACs often lack both access to much needed infrastructure financing and the resources to adequately maintain existing system facilities. As a result, these systems face significant challenges in complying with long standing and new drinking water rules.² Three major problems that impede the sustainability of a small community water system include:

- 1) contamination of drinking water source water from wastewater intrusion, agricultural influences, and/or contaminant spills from industrial activities;
- 2) seasonal weather changes resulting in floods or droughts require design options to bypass treatment during rain and storm events and identification of alternative water supplies (including water reuse sources) to increase capacity during droughts; and
- 3) deteriorating collection and distribution systems compromise source water quality and increase the cost of water treatment.

Rural communities within the San Diego IRWM region unincorporated areas have water quantity and quality issues exacerbated by climate change, poor economies, and lack of community expertise. Inadequate water supply to support existing communities is a public health risk. The majority of drinking water maximum containment level (MCL) violations occur with small public water systems. Further, inadequate wastewater treatment results in unplanned discharge events.

There is not enough available funding to meet the needs of rural DACs. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has 97 small (less than 10,000 population) systems located in San Diego County on its 2010 State Revolving Fund (SRF) Priority Project Funding list. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has a similar lengthy list of communities requesting funding from the Clean Water SRF for wastewater improvements.

Rural DACs in the San Diego IRWM Region are faced with water supply inadequate to support existing connections. It is costly to provide supplemental treatment processes to improve the water quality of contaminated drinking water source waters. It is difficult for small DAC drinking water and wastewater systems to afford improvements because they have fewer ratepayers to share the costs. Further, rural DACs lack technical expertise and financial stability to access and comprehend funding programs. The *Rural DACs Partnership Project* will support these small community water systems in rural areas by providing the grant funding and technical expertise necessary to implement infrastructure improvements.

Chollas Creek Integration Project

The *Chollas Creek Integration Project* is needed to address water quality, flooding, and habitat protection concerns within the DACs surrounding Chollas Creek (Pueblo Hydrologic Unit). The Chollas Creek watershed has been subject to urban runoff pollution and hydromodification by adjacent landowners and poor maintenance over the past few decades. Through analysis of hydrologic conditions and identification of pollution prevention strategies, these concerns will be addressed. Further, development of a stakeholder-driven water management process will benefit the urban DACs by engaging them in the identification of key watershed issues and priorities.

This project will also restore riparian habitat and improve flood management in Chollas Creek Section 2A in order to improve environmental health/safety, surface water quality, and availability of green open space for the Encanto area, a disadvantaged urban community.

San Diego Regional Water Quality Assessment and Outreach Project

While recent regulatory programs (e.g., MS4 Stormwater Permit R9-2007-0001) and the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) have increased the monitoring efforts and availability of surface water quality data in the County's watersheds, there is still insufficient information to adequately assess the status of many local rivers and streams. Additional ambient water quality data is needed to establish a baseline of water quality conditions in San Diego County watersheds, identify impaired water bodies, and provide focus for non-point source pollution prevention efforts. This data is needed to determine if

² U.S. EPA 2007. *Small Drinking Water Systems: State of the Industry and Drinking Water Technologies to Meet the Safe Drinking Water Act Requirements*. EPA/600/R-07/110.

local DACs are receiving undue burden of water quality impairments within the neighborhoods, and also to ensure that existing impairments are addressed through regulatory and voluntary clean-up programs.

The *San Diego Regional Water Quality Assessment and Outreach Project* continues important regional water quality assessment work completed by San Diego Coastkeeper through funding provided under Proposition 50. Proposition 84 funds will leverage partnerships we have built with other organizations and funders and a trained core of citizen water monitoring volunteers.

Description of Proposed Project and Targeted Benefits to DACs

The proposed projects contribute to water supply and/or water quality needs in both urban (*Chollas Creek Integration Project*) and rural (*Rural DAC Partnership Project*) DACs in San Diego County.

Rural DAC Partnership Project

In the *Rural DAC Partnership Project*, RCAC will manage the Proposition 84 grant funds to address inadequate water supply and water quality in rural DACs, including tribal communities, with populations less than 10,000. The targeted benefit is a reliable source of quality water supply to rural DACs in the region. DACs will be selected based on U.S. Census 2000 income data, as defined above.

RCAC will lead a representative group of stakeholders and agencies, including a representative of the San Diego IRWM Regional Advisory Committee (RAC), to solicit and select rural DACs for funding of critical infrastructure improvement projects. Rural DACs will be contacted for eligible projects as well as agencies for DACs in non-compliance with local, state, and federal agencies. Criteria for selection will be based on the following factors: 1) public health risks, 2) environmental justice, 3) multiple benefits, 4) affordability and sustainability, and 5) incorporation of green technologies. Opportunities to merge related projects will be evaluated. Projects will be selected from both tribal and non-tribal rural DACs. Preference will be given to DAC projects that are ready to be constructed. In every case, RCAC will look at other available funding resources to leverage Proposition 84 dollars.

RCAC will provide DACs with outreach, program information, assisting with project scope and readiness, project documentation for funding, assistance with engineering and contractor selection, project oversight, and disbursement of individual DAC project payments. To extend Proposition 84 dollars, RCAC will provide supplementary capacity development, training, and technical assistance to support project sustainability utilizing existing RCAC programs.

RCAC is a certified Community Development Financial Institution and will be responsible for disbursements for selected DAC projects. Reporting process for the DAC projects will, at a minimum, include quarterly reporting and invoices. Work will be verified by RCAC before payments are made. RCAC will provide written quarterly reports to the San Diego IRWM program and will be available to report directly to the RWMG if requested.

DAC projects may not have the economic base to fully support ongoing operation and maintenance (O&M) needs. In addition, DACs may not have adequately trained personnel that can provide effective O&M of new infrastructure. To offset these shortcomings, RCAC will do the following:

- 1) In the selection process, RCAC will determine how project O&M will be sustained;
- 2) Whenever possible, select technologies that are straight-forward and require less technical expertise and expense to operate;
- 3) Provide technical assistance and training during project start-up to bring system staff up-to-speed on proper O&M; and
- 4) Work with outside entities such as the Indian Health Services and the California Rural Water Association to further support the O&M of each project through ongoing technical assistance. This additional technical assistance will not use Proposition 84 funds, but will be provided by other RCAC resources leveraging the grant funds.

No environmental justice issues or substantial environmental impacts (beyond temporary construction-related impacts) are anticipated to result from the *Rural DAC Partnership Project*.

Chollas Creek Integration Project

The *Chollas Creek Integration Project* will prepare the Chollas Creek Enhancement Program (City of San Diego 2002) for full-scale implementation by providing a comprehensive analysis of creek conditions, opportunities and constraints for habitat protection, restoration, enhancement, preventing pollution and reducing storm water TMDLs. The Opportunities Assessment will then prioritize projects and match them to funding opportunities that will improve conditions in this disadvantaged neighborhood.

Within Chollas Creek Section 2A, the project partners will restore creek habitat, prevent surface water pollution, and reduce erosion and flooding associated with channelization. Through the removal of concrete and debris from the creek, widening creek bank slopes (treatment of hydraulic problem), and soil erosion prevention measures, flooding contributors such as velocity and sedimentation will be reduced and Section 2A will be stabilized for 100-year design flows. Reduction of flood hazards is important to this urban DAC which is seeking new and expanded economic development opportunities to improve the quality of life of its residents. Through cultivation of native plant species, removal of debris and trash, and maintenance of a soil creek bottom to promote biofiltration, the project will reduce toxic metals and bacteria in the creek stream and other environmental stressors. Reduction of environmental pollutants in the creek will improve surface water quality, ability of the creek to host vegetation and wildlife, and the overall well-being of this important neighborhood resource.

This is a community-based effort that has and will continue to strengthen the grass-roots connection of the neighborhoods to the open space canyon and creek system and the watershed. This project will strengthen community connections by encouraging community participation in improving the watershed. Stakeholders will be empowered to address and advocate for large-scale improvements to their watershed, combined with an awareness of the significance of personal choices and behaviors in protecting their watershed.

Ongoing O&M costs for the Chollas Creek Section 2A restoration activities will be provided by the Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation through private funding from the Jacobs Family Foundation, as well as various grant opportunities secured by the project partners. The Jacobs Center will manage ongoing O&M activities and payments within its annual budget.

No environmental justice issues or substantial environmental impacts (beyond temporary construction-related impacts) are anticipated to result from the *Chollas Creek Integration Project*.

San Diego Regional Water Quality Assessment and Outreach Project

The *San Diego Regional Water Quality Assessment and Outreach Project* continues critical work conducted by San Diego Coastkeeper through 2011. The project will engage community stakeholders to collect and analyze surface water samples in eight to nine watersheds throughout San Diego County and conduct trash removal in these areas. Most watersheds contain pockets of urban DACs that are facing critical surface water quality issues.

The *San Diego Regional Water Quality Assessment and Outreach Project* will benefit local communities already overburdened with health issues. The program monitors almost coastal watersheds that flow through some of San Diego's most impacted communities where environmental hazards and some of San Diego County's most polluted waterways exist. Samples will be analyzed for physical, chemical, bacterial, dissolved metals and nutrient constituents, as well as toxicity and bioassessment indicators. Resultant water quality data will be publically accessible to support public involvement in water resource conservation and stewardship of watershed function and health.

Documentation of DAC Representation and Participation

Outreach to DACs is complex – some economically disadvantaged areas are not well represented by water management groups. If organized groups exist within the identified DACs (such as Groundwork San Diego-Chollas Creek in the Pueblo hydrologic unit), the RWMG and RAC members reached out to invite participation in the IRWM program. For example, RWMG staff recently gave a presentation on the IRWM program to the emerging Chollas Creek Project Implementation Group. If no organized group exists, however, outreach was coordinated through the water agencies and municipalities serving those areas in order to identify water resources projects that provide DAC benefits. The RWMG also worked to

establish lines of communication (such as RCAC and California Rural Water Association) with rural DACs that depend on groundwater.

The Watershed Planning and Outreach Workgroup, established in December 2008, helped to clarify critical water supply and water quality needs in the Region's watersheds, and to identify outreach strategies that will bring DAC leaders to the table to engage in projects and partnerships that help to solve those critical needs. The Watershed Planning and Outreach Workgroup suggested conducting targeted presentations to community and stakeholder groups in DACs. RWMG members have since given presentations on the IRWM program and project solicitation at meetings of the Watershed Urban Runoff Management Program (WURMP), Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association, and Cuyamaca College.

Additionally, the Workgroup developed guidance for the current Proposition 84 grant cycle(s), for distribution to DACs and other stakeholders. The handout, which was provided to stakeholders at outreach meetings and public workshops in the summer of 2010, included information about the 'Call for Projects' and contracting topics. This handout was used in targeted meetings with DAC representatives to explain the purpose of IRWM and help them to formulate integrated, multi-benefit projects that address their critical water resources needs.

The following sections summarize those outreach strategies suggested by the Workgroup. The RWMG will continue to work with the Workgroup to develop and implement a watershed outreach strategy that targets DACs. The RWMG intends to build on DWR's support for targeted DAC outreach, DAC participation in IRWM planning, technical assistance, feasibility studies, and construction.

Coordination with Regional Agencies / Programs

SANDAG is the regional planning agency responsible for generating the regional growth projections upon which SDCWA and member agencies base their UWMP demand calculations. SANDAG has been an active participant in the RAC and other IRWM-related planning activities. Coordination with SANDAG will assist the RWMG in surveying the Region's DACs, monitoring changes to these communities, and identifying their needs.

Additionally, the RWMG has reached out to the WURMP workgroups established under the regional MS4 permit. Because WURMP activities target specific watershed areas, group members can offer ideas and suggestions about water quality needs in underprivileged neighborhoods.

One-on-one Communication between DAC Leaders and RWMG or RAC Representatives

The RWMG and RAC have contacted community leaders within the DACs, as well as organizations that support rural water systems, and asked to work with them to identify the current state of their water-related resources. This one-on-one correspondence will ensure that DACs have access to the planning process, allowing their input to be incorporated and their interests to be represented early-on, prior to project implementation. Additionally, critical needs of the DACs which are identified through these discussions will be translated into long-term targets for the Plan and potential projects.

The RWMG has also approached RCAC, California Department of Public Health, and County Department of Environmental Health for lists of rural mutual water companies and other organizations that may be targeted for outreach. Many of these rural water companies face groundwater quality concerns, as they're outside of the Water Authority's service area.

Disadvantaged Community Representation on the RAC

To ensure consideration of diverse views, RAC membership included organizations that identify and address DAC and environmental justice issues. San Diego Coastkeeper and SCWRP, for example, are active in addressing several key DAC projects within the Region. San Diego Coastkeeper sits on the RAC and Workgroups as a disadvantaged community and environmental justice advocacy organization primarily concerned about water quality issues. RCAC also sits on the RAC as a representative of small community water systems in rural areas. Having this rural 'voice' at the table has allowed the RAC and Workgroups to explore the needs of rural DACs, including groundwater quality and infrastructure improvements.

Strategic Location of Public Meetings

To overcome financial constraints that may prevent DACs from traveling to public meetings, public meetings related to the planning and implementation of the IRWM Plan were hosted in disadvantaged areas to the greatest extent feasible. This recommendation was included in the *Public Outreach and Disadvantaged & Environmental Justice Community Involvement Plan*. The Project Workshops held to solicit project submittals for this *San Diego IRWM Implementation Grant Proposal* were hosted in different locations throughout the County to reduce commute times and encourage use of transit (City of Encinitas City Hall/Transit Center and City of Chula Vista Public Works Center). These workshops were also held in the evening (6:00 – 8:00pm) to encourage participation by DAC representatives.

Targeted Presentations

The Watershed Planning and Outreach Workgroup also suggested conducting targeted presentations to community and stakeholder groups in DACs. The Workgroup developed project guidance geared toward DAC and tribal representatives for the upcoming Proposition 84 grant cycle(s). The RWMG convened targeted outreach meetings (described below), as well as Project Workshops intended to bring together watershed groups, DAC leaders, municipalities, and agencies. These Project Workshops were an essential tool for helping DACs to formulate integrated, multi-benefit projects that incorporate environmental stewardship to address their critical water resources needs.

Outreach Meetings

Special DAC outreach meetings were held with San Diego Coastkeeper, Environmental Health Coalition for Water, RCAC, San Diego Groundwork-Chollas Creek, WildCoast, and tribal representatives from throughout the County to identify solutions to DAC and environmental health concerns.

Three DAC and tribal outreach meetings were held, one in April 2010 and two in June 2010. Table 12-1 indicates the principal participants who were represented in meetings. The meetings were facilitated and technical assistance provided by the RWMG.

A brief discussion of the results of the DAC and tribal outreach meetings follows:

- **April 22, 2010.** CoastKeeper, Environmental Health Coalition, and RCAC were in attendance. The group was provided information on the IRWM program and upcoming Proposition 84/1E grant cycles and the role for DAC leaders in identifying water resources projects. The group discussed the key water supply and water quality issues facing DACs/EJ communities in the San Diego region and integrated projects that may address these issues. Additionally, the group discussed what other DAC representatives should be contacted to discuss DAC/EJ issues, needs, and project concepts.
- **June 2, 2010.** The Jacobs Center, Wildcoast, CoastKeeper and Groundworks were in attendance. The group was given an overview and update on the IRWM program and Proposition 84/1E grant opportunities. The group discussed key water management issues facing DACs in the San Diego region and project concepts that would address those issues. The group reviewed the 'Project Guide' to understand the project submittal process, as well as anticipated Prop 84 contract requirements.
- **June 3, 2010.** The Campo, La Jolla, Mesa Grande, Pala, Pauma, Sycuan and Viejas bands of American Indians were in attendance. The group was given an overview of the IRWM program, the roles of the RWMG and RAC, and information on the upcoming Proposition 84/1E grant opportunities. The group discussed key water management issues facing tribes in the San Diego region and project concepts that may address those issues. The group reviewed the 'Project Guide' to understand the project submittal process, as well as anticipated Prop 84 contract requirements.

Table 12-1: DAC and Tribal Participants in San Diego IRWM Program

Names	Organization
Gabriel Solmer Jen Kovecses	San Diego CoastKeeper
Dave Harvey	Rural Community Assistance Corporation
Chris Klein	San Diego EarthWorks
Nicole Capretz	Environmental Health Coalition
Jeff Ortmeier	California Rural Water Association
Lori Vereker	City of Escondido (coordinates with San Luis Rey Indian Water Authority)
Hiram Sarabia-Ramirez	UCSD-SRP
Brandon Everret	Elementary Science Institute
Roque (Rocky) Barros	The Jacobs Center
Leslie Reynolds	San Diego Groundwork-Chollas Creek
Katie Westfall	WildCoast
Diana Ross	Mid City Can
Via Dave Harvey	Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association
Eric Bowlby Brian Moehl	San Diego Canyonlands
Lisa Gover	Campo Band of Kumeyaay Indians
George Wilkins LaVonne Peck Rob Roy	La Jolla Band of Indians
Louis Guassac	Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians
Heidi Brow	Pala Band of Mission Indians
Miguel Hernandez	Pauma/Yuima Band of Mission Indians
Anna Rzepko	Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation
Don Butz Lisa Haws	Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians

As a result of these DAC and tribal outreach meetings, the attendees were encouraged to develop project concepts and work plans that address their water supply and water quality needs, and are structured competitively for the IRWM program. The RWMG staff and consultants provided technical support, as requested, to the DAC representatives in developing their project submittals. This technical support included review and refinement of project scope and approach to ensure that the projects addressed the San Diego IRWM Plan objectives and grant eligibility requirements.

Special consideration was given in the project prioritization process to projects that address the critical water supply and water quality needs of DACs and environmental justice communities. Following selection of the funding package through the region's Project Selection Workgroup, the RWMG staff and consultants have provided the selected DAC project sponsors with additional technical support, including review of work plan and budget materials, project mapping, and identification of economic benefits associated with project implementation.

Further, the DAC and tribal representatives listed in Table 12-1 are all continuing to participate in the IRWM program through the stakeholder email list and/or attendance at RAC meetings. The RWMG is committed to maintaining and expanding relationships with these DAC representatives to ensure that identified critical needs are addressed through the IRWM program. During the IRWM Plan Update (anticipated in 2012), these DAC representatives will participate in refinement of the regional priorities, goals and objectives, project prioritization, and other water management policies.

Letters of Support

Letters of support that were submitted by agencies and organizations representing DACs in the San Diego region are included in Appendix 12-1.

- *Rural DAC Partnership Project*
 - State of California – Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Public Health
 - La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians
- *Chollas Creek Integration Project*
 - City of San Diego
 - Southeastern Economic Development Corporation
- *San Diego Regional Water Quality Assessment and Outreach Project*
 - Environmental Health Coalition
 - WildCOAST



Mark B Horton, MD, MSPH
Director

Appendix 12-1: DAC Letters of Support
State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Public Health



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

December 22, 2010

San Diego Regional Water Management Group
c/o Mark Stadler
San Diego County Water Authority
4677 Overland Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123

RE: SUPPORT FOR SAN DIEGO IRWM PROJECT- "RURAL DISADVANTAGED
COMMUNITY (DAC) PARTNERSHIP PROJECT"

Dear Mr. Stadler

The California Department of Public Health – Drinking Water Program (CDPH-DWP) is requesting that this letter, expressing support for the Rural Disadvantaged Community (DAS) Partnership Project, be submitted as part of the San Diego IRWM Implementation Grant Proposal.

The Rural Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Partnership Project is an important project for the San Diego Region by providing outreach and funding opportunities to local disadvantaged communities in order to improve the availability of safe and reliable drinking water for these communities. CDPH-DWP views and appreciates this regional planning process as a positive, collaborative effort of a wide range of water management stakeholders such as the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, and Clean Water Action.

The CDPH-DWP supports and encourages the submittal of the San Diego IRWM Implementation Grant Proposal to fund projects that address the critical water management needs of our disadvantaged communities.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 449-5600 or Steve.Woods@cdph.ca.gov

Sincerely,

Stephen Woods, Assistant Chief
Division of Drinking Water & Environmental Management

LaVonne Peck
Tribal Chair

James Trujillo
Vice Chairman

Adam Gelsler
Secretary

Fred Nelson, Jr.
Treasurer

Karlene Clifford
Council Member

Appendix 12-1: DAC Letters of Support



LA JOLLA BAND OF LUISEÑO INDIANS

22000 Hwy 76 * Pauma Valley, CA. 92061

(760) 742-3771 * Fax (760) 742-3779

November 17, 2010

Mr. Dave Harvey
Southern California Regional Manager - Environmental
Rural Community Assistance Corporations
Southern California Office
417 Carmel, Suite #104
San Marcos, CA 92078

***Re: Rural Community Assistance Corporations (RCAC) San Diego Integrated
Regional Management Plan (SD IRWMP) selection***

Dear Mr. Harvey,

We are pleased to hear that the SD IRWMP advisory group has selected RCAC to serve as a pass through entity to San Diego Counties most disadvantaged communities. As a Tribal Nation located within northeast San Diego County we face many of the same issues found throughout the County. Obviously, drought has plagued the backcountry for years resulting in inadequate supplies. In addition the La Jolla Tribe has dealt with water quality issues that require costly treatment. In short, both water quantity and water quality issues often require cost-prohibitive infrastructure improvements that small rural communities simply cannot afford.

With this in mind, the La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians fully supports all efforts to assist San Diego's rural communities with infrastructure improvements. We also applaud the SD-IRWMP for recognizing these issues and for providing a mechanism for disadvantaged communities to access project funding.

Sincerely,

James Trujillo
Tribal Vice-Chairman
La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

November 19, 2010

San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management Program
c/o Rosalyn Prickett, AICP
Project Manager

RMC Water and Environment
4225 Executive Square, Suite 750
San Diego, CA 92037

Subject: Letter of Support for Chollas Creek Watershed Opportunity Assessment Planning Study

Dear Ms. Prickett:

The City of San Diego's City Planning & Community Investment Department supports the San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grant application to the State of California, Proposition 84 funding for a series of regional water quality and environmental protection projects. The Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation (JCNI) and Groundwork San Diego joint grant application for \$900,000 would prepare a Chollas Creek Watershed Opportunity Assessment Plan and would revitalize and restore segment 2A of the South Branch of Chollas Creek. The Watershed Opportunity Planning Study would expand on the earlier work of the Chollas Creek Enhancement Program and Chollas Creek Implementation program adopted May 14, 2002 and is a precursor to a Pueblo Watershed Management Plan. The scope and purpose of the grant application conforms to goals and policies of the San Diego General Plan, the Southeastern San Diego Community Plan, the Chollas Creek Enhancement Plan, and the Integrated Regional Water Management Program.

The communities along the creek way were largely developed in the 1930 through the 1950's, are highly diverse ethnic minority, and are some of San Diego's lowest per capita income neighborhoods. The communities have been underserved in infrastructure, open space, recreational opportunities as well as development and redevelopment of commercial, industrial and residential structures. The City is collaborating on catalyst mixed-use development with the Southeastern Economic Development Corporation, Inc, JCNI, the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to encourage employment opportunities, affordable housing, open space, and environmental sustainability.

The Chollas Creek South Branch flows through numerous Southeastern San Diego neighborhoods to its terminus in San Diego Bay. The creek restoration is an opportunity to convert an environmentally denigrated and partially channelized segment to a thriving natural riparian habitat that functions as an open space, active recreation, educational opportunity, and community mobility linkage. Over the past few years, portions of this creek habitat have been successfully restored through a demonstrated collaborative approach by JCNI and Groundwork San Diego. Their track record for restoration work is exemplary and should be awarded funding to further their collaborative efforts.



City Planning and Community Investment

202 C Street, MS 4A • San Diego, CA 92101-3864

Tel (619) 235-5200 Fax (619) 533-5951

Appendix 12-1: DAC Letters of Support

November 19, 2010

Ms. Rosalyn Prickett, AICP

Page 2

The City Planning & Community Investment Department strongly supports the joint efforts of Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation and Groundwork San Diego for the watershed planning and physical improvements along the creek way. The funding will help to provide for the long term sustainable natural environment, watershed and community attribute.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Anderson', written in a cursive style.

William Anderson

City Planning & Community Investment

cc: Leslie Reynolds, Groundwork San Diego
Karen Bucey, Community Planner



Southeastern
Economic
Development
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November 29, 2010

San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management Program
c/o Rosalyn Prickett, Project Manager, AICP
RMC Water and Environment
4225 Executive Square, Suite 750
San Diego, CA 92037

Subject: Letter of Support for Chollas Creek Integrated Project

Dear Ms. Prickett:

The Southeastern Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) supports the Chollas Creek Integrated Project which has been recommended by the Regional Advisory Committee of the San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management for Proposition 84 funding. The goals and objectives of the project will lead to multiple benefits, including improved health, environment and economic conditions, for residents of the disadvantaged communities located within the affected Pueblo watershed.

SEDC is a nonprofit public benefit corporation responsible for redevelopment activities within a 7.2 square mile area immediately east of downtown San Diego. Established in 1981 by the City of San Diego, SEDC's sphere of influence covers 15 neighborhoods, including and four distinct redevelopment project areas. The south branch of Chollas Creek traverses most of these redevelopment areas and is both an obstacle to and a potential resource for revitalization of our underinvested urban neighborhoods. We have worked collaboratively with citizens and community partners such as the Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation (JCNI) for over a decade to implement the goals of the southeastern San Diego community for development of new commercial, retail and cultural centers, improved infrastructure, and the creation or preservation of affordable housing. Underlying these efforts is the difficult challenge of obtaining public and private investment to address the neglected, unsafe and deteriorating condition of Chollas Creek and to transform it into an asset for natural habitat preservation, climate change mitigation, and environmental health.

With JCNI and Groundworks San Diego Chollas Creek, SEDC strongly supports the Chollas Creek Enhancement Program (adopted by the City in 2002) and will promote the Chollas Creek Integrated Project as an engaged and committed community partner. With the Opportunities Assessment and restoration of Section 2A, Chollas Creek will continue to become a valued natural resource that assists in creating jobs, attracts new businesses, and new developing affordable housing, creates green space, and attracts other partners for investment in critical revitalization projects that are desperately needed and deserved by this disadvantaged community.

Sincerely,

Brian L. Troitier
Acting President/CEO

Appendix 12-1: DAC Letters of Support



December 8, 2010

San Diego Regional Water Management Group
c/o Mark Stadler
San Diego County Water Authority
4677 Overland Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123

RE: Support for San Diego IRWM Project – San Diego Regional Water Quality Assessment and Outreach Project, 2010

Dear Mr. Stadler:

On behalf of Environmental Health Coalition, we wish to express our strong support for the San Diego Regional Water Quality Assessment and Outreach Project (Assessment Project) to be submitted as part of the *San Diego IRWM Implementation Grant Proposal*. The Assessment Project plays an important role in the San Diego region – it provides scientifically defensible water quality data for the majority of our region's inland waters and it trains and educates local residents about watershed science and pollution prevention.

The Assessment Project builds on and will continue the successes of San Diego Coastkeeper's current water quality monitoring program. Stakeholder involvement, community participation, and community involvement are at the core of the project. For example, the project will teach a minimum of 100 members of the community each year how to monitor water quality in a scientifically defensible way in watersheds throughout the county.

Importantly, the Assessment Project will also benefit local communities already overburdened with health issues. The Assessment Program monitors almost all coastal watersheds in the County including waters that flow through some of San Diego's most impacted communities where we work to reduce environmental hazards and where some of San Diego County's most polluted waterways exist.

We support and encourage the submittal of the *San Diego IRWM Implementation Grant Proposal* to fund projects that address the critical water management needs of our disadvantaged communities.

Sincerely,

Laura Hunter, Associate Director for Programs

2727 Hoover Avenue, Suite 202 ♦ National City, CA 91950
619.474.0220 ♦ 619.474.1210 fax ♦ www.environmentalhealth.org



December 2nd, 2010
 San Diego Regional Water Management Group
 c/o Mark Stadler
 San Diego County Water Authority
 4677 Overland Avenue
 San Diego, CA 92123

RE: Support for San Diego IRWM Project – San Diego Regional Water Quality Assessment and Outreach Project, 2010

Dear Mr. Stadler:

On behalf of WiLDCOAST, we wish to express our strong support for the San Diego Regional Water Quality Assessment and Outreach Project (Assessment Project) to be submitted as part of the *San Diego IRWM Implementation Grant Proposal*. The Assessment Project plays an important role in the San Diego region – it provides scientifically defensible water quality data for the majority of our region's inland waters and it trains and educates local residents about watershed science and pollution prevention.

The Assessment Project builds on and will continue the successes of San Diego Coastkeeper's current water quality monitoring program. Through the Assessment Project, community members will be engaged on a monthly basis to assess surface waters and are mobilized to remove trash from inland and coastal areas. Stakeholder involvement, community participation and community involvement are at the core of the project. For example, the project will teach a minimum of 100 members of the community each year how to monitor water quality in a scientifically defensible way in watersheds throughout the county.

Importantly, the Assessment Project will also benefit local disadvantaged communities. The Assessment Program monitors almost all coastal watersheds in the County including waters that flow through some of San Diego's most disadvantaged communities, like Barrio Logan and Imperial Beach. Sadly, these waters are also some of San Diego County's most polluted waterways. Because the monitoring data is available to any member of the community for free through Coastkeeper's water quality website, the Assessment Project will serve to educate and empower members of these affected communities. In addition, the Project is geared towards training community members from each watershed to represent their own watersheds. Thus, the program furthers local environmental empowerment. In addition, data generated by the project is shared with water quality regulators and jurisdictions to enable more effective management and clean up of the polluted waters that plague local disadvantaged neighborhoods.

At WiLDCOAST, we have been working with underserved communities to conserve coastal and marine ecosystems and wildlife since the organization's inception in 2000. Two of our programs are working to conserve and restore the Tijuana and Otay River Valleys, which represent some of the last areas of open space in the region. These river valleys provide important ecological and recreational resources to south San Diego County and the San Diego-Tijuana border region, communities that are among the lowest income and most ethnically diverse in the County. Ongoing pollution concerns, lack of diverse stakeholder involvement, and an environmental disconnect in the lives of the local population are all challenges to the long-term stewardship of the Tijuana and Otay River Valleys. These are all issues that we have been working to address by

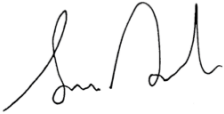
Appendix 12-1: DAC Letters of Support

increasing the stewardship capacity of the south San Diego County community to conserve and restore these important river valleys. Efforts such as Coastkeeper's Assessment Project are in line with WiLDCOAST's work to conserve coastal watersheds for the benefit of underserved communities.

WiLDCOAST views this regional planning process as a positive, collaborative effort by a wide range of water management stakeholders. We support and encourage the submittal of the *San Diego IRWM Implementation Grant Proposal* to fund projects that address the critical water management needs of our disadvantaged communities.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 619.423.8665 x202.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Serge Dedina', with a stylized, cursive script.

Serge Dedina, Ph.D.
Executive Director

